

May 2003

ML Directorate recognizes Admin Professional's Day

by Katherine Gleason, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — On Apr. 23, organizations around the country took a day to recognize the importance of their administrative professional personnel. Things were no different at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate (ML).

The directorate dedicated the entire afternoon to celebrate the work performed by the administrative staff, and to teach them a little bit more about the research that goes on throughout the directorate. To ensure that all the directorate's administrative personnel had the opportunity to enjoy the afternoon, supervisors and other volunteers filled in at their stations.

The festivities began with a lunch provided by management, which offered attendees the opportunity to view a series of informative posters placed throughout the room. Each poster provided a brief look at a different technical area of the directorate. Door prizes were given out to a few lucky attendees.

Following the lunch, ML Director Dr. Charles Browning presented a 30-minute overview of the directorate. The slide show began with an entertaining look at some of the earliest attempts at flight. From there, the briefing discussed the history of the directorate, including a look at some of the ML's original buildings. The presentation concluded with a quick look at each of the technical areas within the directorate.

After the briefing, the audience split into groups and took advantage of the opportunity to view a few of the eight available demonstrations. Each tour stop showcased a different portion

of the work that goes on at the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate everyday.

One of the demonstrations involved an optical communication system. Research physicist Darnell Diggs showed how audio waves could be transmitted to a receiver through an optical channel. Another presentation discussed biomimetics, and how AFRL tries to duplicate some of the things found in nature, such as infrared detecting beetles. Other demonstrations included the materials testing and evaluation lab, the experimental processing lab and conductive plastics. @



Chemist Laura Sowards, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate discusses biomimetics during the directorate's Administrative Assistance Appreciation Day activities. (Air Force photo)